

# CAVALRY OPERATIONS IN HANOVER COUNTY

**Veteran, Who Took Part in Fighting,  
Tells Incidents of Campaign  
in May, 1864.**

## HOT BATTLE OF HOWE'S SHOP

**Custer's Men Took Part, and by  
Their Dash Contributed Largely to  
Success of Grant—How Slayer of  
J. E. B. Stuart Met Death.**

In the closing days of May, 1864, the army under General Grant crossed the North Anna and Pamunkey rivers and set out across Hanover County towards the Chickahominy and the Richmond defenses. General Lee's army was in the same time moving to get into position at New Cold Harbor to resist this movement. On the 27th of the month our regiment, the Ninth Virginia Cavalry, was moved so as to get in the rear of Warren's Corps as it advanced from the Pamunkey to annoy them and gather up the stragglers.

It was distressing and harrowing to the last degree to witness as we followed the line of march of this corps the smoking ruins of houses, the spoliation and outrages committed on the innocent women and children, whose homes had been looted and their scanty provisions carried off and they left to weep and starve.

A part of my regiment formed our advance guard in this movement, who marched 200 yards or more in front of us, and among them were my two younger brothers. At a certain point on the road, where another from the left intersected it, quite suddenly late in the afternoon a small body of Union cavalry, escorting an ambulance, made an appearance ahead of us. It was seen by us that this was but a small party, and a few of our men dashing forward captured them without a shot being fired on either side.

Our advanced guard, having passed the intersecting road without observing this party, were moving on quietly when some of them, looking back, saw the road behind them filled with mounted men in blue, and, feeling sure that a regiment or brigade had cut them off and were ready to give them chase, at once put to their horses and plunged into the woods, and we saw them no more until the darkness had well set in and we had gone into camp and kindled fires.

## TAKE UP POSITION TO RETARD UNION FORCES

It was deemed needful now to our commanding officers for the secure movement of a part of our army to the progress of several of General Grant's corps who were threatening the Confederate line of march; and nearly all of our cavalry took position near Hanover Station to retard the Federal advance. Both Fitz Lee's and Hampton's divisions were dismounted in the woods where they threw up such meager breastworks as they could. The Federal cavalry, consisting of General Gregg's division and Cavalry Corps, soon assailed this line, and there ensued for seven hours a fiercely contested engagement, with heavy losses on each side.

It did not reach the ground of this battle until the afternoon, and were then halted in the road as though we might be needed in a mounted charge. While we halted I rode to a tree by the roadside where the body of a young Georgia major had been laid. His head rested at the roots of the tree, and his upturned face showed that a bullet had penetrated his forehead just above the line of his eyes. He was rather small of stature, but his face was intelligent and his brow noble, and it seemed a pity indeed that the death-dealing missile had found so splendid a mark.

We soon moved forward and then were halted and ordered to dismount, form a line of battle and march across a field. A line of skirmishers was deployed in front of us and a lively fire was opened on the enemy's lines. Private B. A. Smith, of the 10th Virginia, was seen to leave the skirmish line and run in the side by a minnie ball, and we learned that the force advancing on us were infantry. Very soon we were ordered to retreat, and slowly fall back. This we were glad to do, and having gained our saddles we withdrew without being pressed.

In marching away from this field our course led us near some open and swampy ground from which the enemy discharged their guns at us quite furiously. The twilight had set in, and the flashes of the musketry would have been beautiful but for the whizzing of the bullets. One of them cut the hatband of Lieutenant William MacDuff, in the forehead of us, but happily did him no harm. One man near me exclaimed as the guns flashed out on the darkness, "Lor's, they beat the lightning bugs."

## SLAYER OF J. E. STUART RECEIVES MORTAL WOUND

It was in this day's engagement that Custer's Michigan brigade came into action, and with their customary resolution and dash, greatly assisted the Federal cavalry in maintaining their ground and winning the day. In one of the regiments of the Federal Cavalry, Private John A. Huff (Company E, Fifth Michigan), who, just seventeen days before at Yellow Tavern, had fired the shot which mortally wounded General J. E. Stuart, the idol of the Southern Cavalry. He was in the position of this afternoon and received a bullet wound from which he died.

On the day following this battle at the intersection of the road on which we marched with the road to Richmond, and where some of the fighting had occurred a large mound of fresh earth appeared, with a tall fence of rails inclosing it, and at the head of the written the name of Colonel's horse that had been shot and here buried. The men of the regiment had thus paid tribute to the familiar steed which they had been wont to follow on the march in battle. The regiment, with many others, was now forcing its way to the bloody field of New Cold Harbor, and the inquiry readily suggested itself within me, how many of these brave men are destined to fall of such considerate and respectful sepulture, but will rest in nameless graves.

That evening as our march was pursued we came in sight of the home of Colonel Shelton, where two years before, when I was a boy, I had received shelter at his hands, and the most gentle and kindly nursing by his wife and daughters. Approaching that the house would fall between the contending lines of the two armies, I went with our colonel's heavy escort with the regimental ambulance to take the family to a place of safety within our lines. I found the household in consternation and grief. The suspense and tears of the mother and daughters were piteous to behold, and wrung from the heart of Fannie and Emma and Mrs. Shelton were unwilling to leave their home, but urged that Colonel Shelton should go. Preparations were promptly made for the family's departure, and having kissed his wife and daughters a sad good-bye, he entered the ambulance and was driven off. I followed the ambulance, leaving

# Immortality--Echo of Recent Reunion

**Suggested by the Recent Confederate Veterans' Reunion in Richmond.**

As the writer sat in a comfortable chair on the front porch of an elegant home on Franklin Street, said chair being supplied by that witty, wise and attractive Southern lady, Miss Bettie Elyson, of Richmond, he had a splendid opportunity of seeing the Confederate parade on the 3d of June, which will ever be green in his memory, not only on account of its length, its brilliant military display, its martial music, but for one feature especially, which was this:

As the gray line of battered and aged veterans of the war passed by, not only was the cheering tremendous, but we saw tears coursing down the faces of many. And we began to ask ourselves why this sorrow. Have not these veterans faced death on battlefields, and are they now to be killed by the "immortality" of the war? Is not the cause for which they so bravely battled gone into history as lost? Very, very. What, then, is the explanation? Here it is: There are some things that call not, will not die, and love is one of them. These old soldiers brought back the love of the whole old South of fifty years ago, and in the pastime fullness and glory. In spite of the debility, the canker of a calm world, and the cancer of commercialism, the heroic heart of the old South still survives in the hearts of the sons and daughters of fathers who made it illustrious. Immortality of principle for which they fought was evident everywhere in Richmond.

## "A Memorial to Southern Women"

Undying in faith and love, last at the cross and first at the tomb, it has always been woman's glory to uphold man's faltering footsteps. And in his wounds, and soothe his aching brow. At no time in her glorious history has this noble mission of woman been better exemplified than in the women of the South during and after the Civil War.

In death and desolation, and in mental and bodily anguish unexpressed, the light of her faith in the Southern soldier, and in the Southern cause never went out. The Southern soldier went unflinchingly to his certain death, and she, in the support of the loved women at home.

When all was over, when the soil of the South had drunk in vain the life blood of her best and bravest, when darkness unexpressed brooded over the land, and the lamp of hope had gone out, Southern women again took up the crushing burden, and, with the hope for the future in their agonized mind and heart.

The renaissance of the South after the greatest and most pitiless war of history is due mainly to her women. And now, when the clouds have rolled away and the bright sun of peace and prosperity shines over our once desolate land, it is again the tender, loving hands of the loving women of the South that decorate, each year, the graves of our dead heroes, and their voices and pens that keep their memories in the hearts and minds of the rising generation.

How can we Southern men honor our matchless women? Already we have reared in our hearts a spiritual monument to them even more exquisite than that described by the Rev. Dr. McKim as reared to the Southern soldier.

But let us not stop at this. Let us erect at Richmond, or some other Southern city, a physical monument to the Southern women, which shall express in form and feature, beautiful and tender, and worthy of the genius of a Phidias or a Praxiteles, the unexpressed love, honor and reverence which we feel but can never adequately express in words.

CORNELIUS H. FAULTIEROY.  
St. Louis.

## ASHEVILLE

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
ASHEVILLE, N. C., August 28.—One of the most brilliant debut parties given in Asheville in years was that of Miss Louise Phipps, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Phipps, of Charleston, S. C., who was here on a visit to her mother and Mr. Phipps are spending the summer in Asheville. Mr. Phipps came down to Asheville for the event, which was held at Battery Park on Monday evening. Fifty young people were entertained at an elaborate dinner, and most of Asheville society joined the diners at the ball which followed.

Mr. Arthur MacDuff, of Jacksonville, Fla., gave a large dinner during the week at Battery Park, the guests including most of the favorite debutantes of the season. Mrs. MacDuff entertained for Mrs. C. H. Phipps, who is the guest of Miss Eva Horner, daughter of Bishop and Mrs. Junius Horner. Covers were laid for twenty-six, the table being decorated with white and pink dahlias, with white and pink candles. White clematis was festooned from the edges of the damask cloth and fringed the centerpiece of dahlias. Place cards were hand painted. Mrs. MacDuff's dinner party was a Friday evening, and was one of the most successful functions of the week. Others entertaining at dinner on the same evening were John Lyons, of Clearwater, Fla., who is a guest of Mrs. C. H. Phipps, and an Eastern bride from New Orleans, who is the guest of Miss Eva Horner, daughter of Bishop and Mrs. Junius Horner. 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